

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /089 W
-----093045 122028Z /12

R 121641Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5834
INFO EC COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
USLO PEKING
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 17054

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT,IT
SUBJ: SEGRE SEES BUSY AUTUMN FOR THE PCI

SUMMARY. IN INITIAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 11 WITH REPORTING
OFFICER, SERGIO SEGRE, PCI DEPUTY, MEMBER OF PCI CENTRAL
COMMITTEE, AND DIRECTOR PCI OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS, FORESAW BUSY AUTUMN FOR HIMSELF AND THE
PARTY, BUT FEW IF ANY DRAMATIC PROBLEMS FOR THE GOVERNMENT
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IN THE NEXT YEAR. HE SECONDED THE RATHER WIDESPREAD VIEW THAT
THERE WILL BE NO GOVERNMENT CRISIS BEFORE NEXT SUMMER, CONFIRMED
THE BAD STATE OF PCI-PSI RELATIONS, SAID THAT HIS BIGGEST
HEADACHE WAS EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, SPECIFICALLY NEXT YEAR'S
ELECTIONS, INDICATED THAT HE WILL CONTINUE AS THE PCI'S
ROVING AMBASSADOR, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO THINGS
AMERICAN, OFFERED LITTLE ON PCI VIEWS ON CURRENT

FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS, AND SHOWED A GREAT INTEREST IN CURRENT PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEXT PARTY CONGRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. STATE OF THE GOVERNMENT. SEGRE SEEMED TO THINK THAT THERE WOULD BE NO INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEMS FOR ANDREOTTI AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS. IN FACT, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE SEVENTH LEGISLATURE HAS A GOOD CHANCE OF COMPLETING ITS FIVE YEAR MANDATE, BECAUSE THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS WILL THEN BE FOLLOWED BY NUMEROUS REGIONAL ELECTIONS, ETC., IN 1980 WHICH WILL IN TURN DISCOURAGE PARTIES FROM POLITICAL ADVENTURISM.

2. PSI-PCI RELATIONS. SGRE CONFIRMED THAT RELATIONS WERE NOT GOOD WITH THE SOCIALISTS BUT HE HAD NO READY EXPLANATION FOR CRAXI'S RECENT BEHAVIOR. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE SOCIALISTS WERE SEEKING OTHER ALTERNATIVES, I.E. A RETURN TO THE CENTER LEFT, BUT HE WAS NOT MORE SPECIFIC. AS FOR THE RECENT MITTERRAND-CRAXI MEETING AT CORTONA, SEGRE SAID HE WAS ALSO THERE. HE HAD 2 1/2 HOURS WITH MITTERRAND, WHO WAS POORLY INFORMED ABOUT THE ITALIAN SITUATION. MITTERRAND ALLEGEDLY TOLD SEGRE THAT AS LONG AS HE WAS HEAD OF THE FRENCH PARTY, UNITY OF THE LEFT WOULD REMAIN THE POLICY.

3. BERLINGUER'S INTERVIEW IN LA REPUBBLICA. SEGCA AGREED THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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BERLINGUER'S INTERVIEW WITH SCALFARI WAS UNPRECEDENTED. PRESSED BY THE REPORTING OFFICER AS TO THE WHY OF THE INTERVIEW, SEGRE AT FIRST LET SLIP THAT BERLINGUER DID SO IN RESPONSE TO ATTACKS FROM WITHIN THE PARTY BUT THEN PASSED IT OFF AS A CLEARING OF THE DECKS BEFORE THE FALL POLITICAL SEASON.

4. EUROPEAN ELECTIONS. MOST OF SEGRE'S TIME SEEMS TO BE TAKEN UP WITH PREPARATIONS FOR EUROPEAN ELECTIONS. HE PLANS TO ATTEND THE SEPTEMBER 22 MEETING OF EC COMMUNIST PARTIES IN BRUSSELS. HE DOES NOT FORESEE MUCH PROGRESS IN REACHING A UNIFIED COMMUNIST POSITION ON THE ELECTIONS. APPARENTLY THE BELGIAN PARTY IS MAKING SOME EFFORT IN THIS DIRECTION, BUT THE EXPECTED RESULT MAY BE A HALF-PAGE STATEMENT BARELY PAPERING OVER DIFFERENCES. ACCORDING TO SEGRE THE PCI REMAINS THE SOLE WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY FIRMLY BEHIND EUROPE.

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5. IN ITALY THE SITUATION IS FURTHER COMPLICATED, HE SAID, BY PUBLIC APATHY AND THE LACK OF AGREEMENT ON AN ELECTORAL LAW FOR THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS. THE DC HAS PROPOSED A SYSTEM OF THREE ELECTORAL COLLEGES FOR ITALY--NORTH, CENTRAL, 1/SOUTH--WHICH, ACCORDING OP SEGRE, WOULD ELIMINATE THE SMALL PARTIES FROM THE IRUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND FURTHER COMPLICATE THE ALREADY COMPLICATED PROBLEM OF OVERSEAS VOTING.

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6. PCI INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. SEGRE RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A 15-DAY VACATION IN LONDON WHERE HE POLISHED UP HIS ENGLISH. HE HAS ALSO BEEN BUSY COMMUTING TO THE

PCI FESTIVAL OF UNITY IN GENOA AND HAD BEEN TO PARIS WHERE HE ATTENDED KANEPA'S FUNERAL. HE GOES TO BRUSSELS SEPTEMBER 22 FOR THE MEETING OF WEST EUROPEAN CP'S.

7. HE IS ALSO SCHEDULED TO ATTEND A SEMINAR ON EURO-COMMUNISM AT MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AT ROCHESTER BEFORE OR AFTER WHICH HE HAS BEEN INVITED FOR A LUNCH AT THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS. ALDO SPRIANO, PROFESSOR AT CAGLIARI UNIVERSITY, WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO AMMOMP-ANY HIM. (ROME 16534). INSTEAD GIULIANO PROCCARI, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT FLORENCE UNIVERSITY, WILL GO WITH SEGRE. THE PCI WILL ALSO BE SENDING NAPOLITANO TO A CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 14-16 ON THE EUROPEAN LEFT WHICH IS BEING HELD AT THE BOLOGNA CENTER OF JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY AND CO-SPONSORED BY HARVARD UNIVERISTY AND A WEST GERMAN INSTITUTE.

8. AS FOR THE PCI CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (CSPI), IT IS OFF TO A SLOW START. ROMANO LEDDA, THE SECRETARY OF THE CENTER, HAD TWO HEART ATTACKS RECENTLY AND IS OUT OF ACTION.

9. FOREIGN POLICY. SEGRE SAW NO CHANCE OF EARLY IMPROVEMENT IN PCI RELATIONS WITH THE CHINESE PARTY. THE PARTY PLANS TO SEND PAJETTA TO BELGRADE NEXT WEEK TO GET A FIRSTHAND READING ON WHAT THE CHINESE HAD TO SAY WITH RESPECT TO BOTH THE EUROPEAN SCENE AND RELATIONS WITH THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS.

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10. SEGRE IS LOOKING INTO A POSSIBLE BERLINGUER-MARCHAIS MEETING IN PARIS. IT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN OCTOBER.

11. IN RESPONSE TO OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE CONTINUING COMPLEXITY OF THE MIDDLE EAST, ETHIOPIAN, ANGOLAN AND RHODESIAN SITUATIONS, SEGRE HAD LITTLE TO SAY. HE ALLOWED AS MUCH THAT THESE WERE INTRACTABLE PROBLEMS FOR WHICH THERE WERE NO EASY ANSWERS.

12. PREPARATIONS FOR PCI CONGRESS. THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPING THEMES FOR THE CONGRESS HAS ITS FIRST MEETING SEPTEMBER 12. SEGRE CONFIRMED THAT CHIAROMONTE IS RUNNING THINGS HERE FOR BERLINGUER. THE SECOND COMMITTEE ON STRUCTURE AND STATUTE OF THE PARTY HAS YET TO MEET. ACCORDING TO SEGRE, GIOVANNI CERVETTI WILL RUN THIS SHOW.

13. COMMENT. IN THIS FIRST MEETING SEGRE SEEMED TO

PREFER TO TALK TO GENERALITIES AND FEW SPECIFICS.
HE WAS VERY CAUTIOUS IN HIS REMARKS. WHILE WELL- INFORMED ON
PCI INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS, HE SEEMS TO HAVE LESS THAN
A SURE GRIP ON HIGH-LEVEL INTERNAL PARTY POLITICS. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, MEETINGS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME17054
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780371-0239
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From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1466683
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEGRE SEES BUSY AUTUMN FOR THE PCI SUMMARY. IN INITIAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 11 WITH REPORTING OFFICER, SERGIO SEGRE, PCI DEPUTY, MEMBER OF PCI C
TAGS: PINT, IT, PCI, PSI, (SEGRE, SERGIO)
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Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014